HISTORIC ITEMS DONATED TO CCHP

In recent months the CCHP has been the fortunate recipient of several items of historical or cultural significance. Mrs. Dorothy Shipman of Boise, Idaho, and Mr. Jose Antonio Lopez of Bernal have both donated artifacts to our organization's growing collection of historic objects.

Dorothy Shipman presented the CCHP with a souvenir cup and saucer set and a sugar bowl from turn-of-the-century Las Vegas during an August visit here. Mrs. Shipman is a former Las Vegas resident and members of her family have lived in the area since before 1893. She had retained the items along with an 1893 tourist-oriented postcard book of the community as part of her family keepsakes. She feels present-day Las Vegans might enjoy seeing these items and marveling at the change in times and attitudes they represent.

The sugar bowl is of Wheelock China and depicts a painted illustration of a "Mexican Adobe, Las Vegas, N.M." A notation painted on the bottom of the bowl states that it was "Made in Germany for Mrs. C. Waring, East Las Vegas, N.M." The cup and saucer are also Wheelock China from Dresden, Germany and a picture of the "Montezuma Hotel, Las Vegas Hot Springs, N.M." adorns the little blue cup.

The picture book was printed by Rand, McNally & Co., Chicago, and bears the date May 7, 1893. It is entitled "Souvenir...of Las Vegas...New Mexico, The Leading City of the Territory," and was apparently used as a promotional give-away by Brownie & Manzanares Co., Wholesale Grocers, Wool, Hides, and Pelts, based in East Las Vegas.

Inside it contains photographs of Bonito Canyon, Rociada, a view of the hot springs and the Montezuma Hotel, Douglas Avenue, Lincoln Park, Bridge Street, Mineral Hill Resort, J.K. Cravens' Ranch and more.

Another friend of the CCHP, Mr. Jose Antonio Lopez, a rancher from near Bernal, has donated an old portable cook stove to the organization. The stove was possibly used as early as Santa Fe Trail days, and its construction as a scaled-down version of a kitchen cook stove may attest to its intended use for transport on animal-drawn wagons. Lopez said the stove has been occupying a

INTerview:
Rheua Pearce

This is the second of a two-part feature story about Las Vegas preservation pioneer Rheua Pearce. Though I've only known Rheua a short time, I'm told by her longtime friends she's never been one to hold her tongue on issues important to her. It was to be expected then, that in the course of our conversation for this article, following my questions about early Las Vegas preservation efforts, Rheua would turn the talk to her current concerns. And as you will see they're not far removed from her original interest in community preservation.

My questions, printed in italics, will be followed by Rheua's own answers.

---Editor

Rheua, how did you happen to come to Las Vegas for the first time?

I was put in charge of a school for delinquent girls in Santa Fe and I needed to have a certain certification. I came to Las Vegas during the summer of 1949 to go to Highlands University. I took a little apartment on the west side of the Plaza. I remember I really liked the buildings here.

Where did the idea come from to preserve what you found?

While I was taking the certification classes I met John Vallejos, a veteran who was from Las Vegas. We were both going to school cont. on page 2
HOUSE TOUR A SUCCESS

It took several months of planning, six historic tour sites, about 60 hard-working volunteers and a handful of gracious homeowners to pull it off, but we did it: the first CCHP-sponsored Historic House Tour was an un-qualified success!

"We couldn't be happier with the way this tour turned out in terms of community involvement and publicity for historic Las Vegas, along with the fact that it was a pretty good fundraiser for the CCHP's activities," said Susan Swan, a CCHP board member and a docent for the tour.

An estimated 200 people bought tickets to the tour at $5 and $7.50 each. Las Vegas showed its support for the tour primarily in the number of people willing to volunteer to help, and in advance publicity and modest ticket sales here. Interestingly, a large percentage of tour-goers were from outside the Vegas area, primarily from Albuquerque and Santa Fe.

Historic Items cont. from page 1
small corner of his ranch for some time and has suffered years of abuse from the weather, but he hopes Cultural Center visitors will enjoy seeing it and thinking about the days of long ago.

These contributions are greatly appreciated by the CCHP and we look forward to displaying them to our visitors as soon as the CCHP office can create permanent, secure housing for them.

The Las Vegas Daily Optic promoted the tour and recruited volunteers through numerous press releases, and published a front page photo touting the tour on August 23. The Santa Fe New Mexican devoted nearly the entire front page of its August 25 entertainment section to the event.

Local and area radio stations were also generous in donating air time for publicity.

Brochures from the tour are still available at the Antonio Sanchez Cultural Center, 166 Bridge, if anyone would like to read a bit about the buildings on the tour.

"It took an awful lot of cooperation among very many people to stage this house tour," said CCHP executive director Robin Oldham. "I was overwhelmed by our volunteer support, and apparently so were many of the out-of-towners that went on the tour. I've heard numerous comments on the friendliness and professionalism of our tour docents."

Anyone who has suggestions or comments about this first house tour is encouraged to share them with us. The experience from this tour and the ideas we receive from the public will help the CCHP shape the next tour, making it even better for everyone involved!

PEARCE cont. from page 1
on the G.I. Bill -- I had been a WAC. John and I became friends and he told me that while he was in the war he had vowed that if he "ever got out of the foxhole" he would do something for Las Vegas when he got back home.

One day he was sitting in Coco's Drug Store [now Plaza Drugs] and he looked out the window there on the Plaza and said he was going to restore the Plaza. At that time the Plaza was a very bad area: no grass, the trees were dying, trashy.

So John got together the first preservation meeting and invited me to come help. It was held in the Plaza Ballroom and there were about 40 or 50 people there.

What was the first project?
John's idea was to restore the Plaza. The meeting went very well: everybody got so enthusiastic and began volunteering things! The electric company volunteered sprinklers for the grass and trees. Nasario Lopez who had studied for the priesthood and worked for the CCC volunteered to supervise the pruning of the trees.

It became a big community effort. There was one Saturday when the park was just full of people and they all had shovels and tools of some kind. I helped dig a ditch for the sprinkler system in front of the California Store [now Plaza Interiors]. I can

EGGS & DARTS

In Search Of Directors.... The CCHP has begun a search to fill two vacant seats on its Board of Directors. CCHP directors serve as the deciding body for the organization's activities and policies. Board members meet once a month to discuss current and future projects, goals, financial considerations and preservation concerns.

Directors are required to be current dues-paying CCHP members at the time of their election to the Board. They should be willing to take an active volunteer role in the CCHP's ongoing preservation projects. Anyone who is interested in donating their time to this end, whether currently a member or not, is encouraged to contact the CCHP office at 425-8829. Or if you have nominations of individuals whom you believe would be an asset to the Board and they are willing to serve, please inform the CCHP office.

A committee will compile final nominations of potential directors to be voted upon at the CCHP's annual membership meeting. Current CCHP Board members and officers are listed in the CCHPNews staff box in this newsletter.
Pearce cont. from page 2
I still remember the exact spot where I put my shovel.

There was such a feeling of excitement and community spirit on that day. That's what Las Vegas needs again. I came up with the slogan then, "Preservation is more than just buildings, it's buildings and people -- a means to bring people together."

How did the organized preservation effort begin? How did the Design Review Board come about?

After the school I was with in Santa Fe closed, I came back to Las Vegas to live because I had liked it so much.

There were several people here who were working for preservation, but not really together. I went to the Chamber of Commerce where Cruz Sedillo was head. He and Dr. Lynn Perrigo, who taught history at Highlands had been working separately on the same preservation goal. We all met and decided to form an organization. Gary Lawrence, the Chamber president also got in on this.

Dr. Perrigo had been wanting a Design Review Board for a long time -- some kind of supervising body for the historic property in town. He set this up as a part of city government, with one stipulation: that I would be the Board's chairman. So I did, and I served on the Board for nine years.

Why was another organization, the Citizens' Committee for Historic Preservation, needed?

Later we realized another group was needed that would place more emphasis on the citizens of the community and on using historic buildings for practical purposes. We wanted this group to not be a part of the city government, but to represent the citizens to the City.

Ed Fogelman was our first chairman of the CCHP.

We needed an office so I helped convince the Chamber to give us $1500 that was supposed to go for starting an archive -- something we didn't need yet -- to use for a CCHP office. We rented a space in the Dice Apartments for $135 a month and the office was a meeting place for civic organizations. We also maintained a local event calendar. This was late in 1973 and the office ran very well for nine months on that first $1500.

What do you think about the way things are now in Las Vegas? Are you hopeful for the future of preservation here?

Yes, I am very hopeful about Las Vegas' future. There is still so much potential. Las Vegas is a microcosm: it's the best of a community and it's the worst. So it's a challenge.

I think Las Vegas needs to work on capturing some community spirit like it was here during our first work in Plaza Park and also at the time of La Reunion [the consolidation of East and West Las Vegas]. We need to "rediscover the spirit."

If we could get some sort of cívics program in place here -- something for everybody from children to business people to the people in city government it would help. People don't seem to care like they used to.

What projects are you currently working on, Rhea?

I'm working on several projects. Where do I start?

One thing I'd like to develop is a Center for Lifetime Learning. It will be for everyone from the cradle to the grave. It will include a Citizenship Learning Center. This would not be a political science course, but would emphasize each individual's responsibility to their city government and their community. Citizenship used to be taught in the schools, but not any more. People don't realize how important it is.

I am also interested in seeing the Charter for Government that was established in 1969 for La Reunion brought up to date. This would be an excellent opportunity to develop a model for governments, including city, county, state, federal and international. This model would have complete job descriptions for every role in government and define the purposes and responsibilities of the various departments. Organizational and flow charts would explain the relationships of the departments to each other.

The importance of communication and interaction with the public would be stressed. What we develop could be used in schools as part of civics and citizenship curricula.

Rhea felt it important to explain her own background in observing, teaching and working in civics. It all started like this:

In 1912, at the age of 18, Rhea taught her first civics class at Hull House in Chicago. She was totally unprepared for the experience Jane Addams, the school's administrator, thrust upon her -- save for a belief in the importance of citizenship education and a desire to help her students.

Her first students were a group of Italian immigrant men. Ms. Addams insisted they be shown the utmost respect even though they largely held very menial jobs, if they had work at all. As she explained it to Rhea once, "any one of those men can sing the arias from any Italian opera"; it was merely a matter of context.

Rhea soon began teaching the children of these men as well, as the kids played and were tended by their mothers. It was a challenge to Rhea to also begin to educate the women by involving them in their children's play and schooling.

The experience at Hull House was a satisfying time for Rhea and she, in turn, learned a lot from those first students.

Continually learning from one's own students and from all the experiences life offers is an integral part of Rhea's personal philosophy. It is probably this unending desire to learn, combined with natural curiosity, selfless energy and an appreciation for all people that keeps 96-year-old Rhea so young at heart...and coming up with such good ideas.

Our task is to help her implement them, to care -- and to "Recapture the Spirit."
Jewish Historical Group
Convenes in Las Vegas

LAS VEGAS, N.M. — The New Mexico Jewish Historical Society will hold its third annual conference in Las Vegas this weekend.

The three-day conference, which starts tonight in the Kennedy Lounge at New Mexico Highlands University, will concentrate on Jewish history in Las Vegas and northeastern New Mexico with walking and driving tours of Jewish Las Vegas and Fort Union National Monument.

Los Artesanos Bookstore on the Plaza will feature an exhibit and sale of New Mexico Judaica and a photographic exhibit of Jewish Las Vegas.

Former state historian Stanley Hordes of Santa Fe will give an update on an ongoing project to document the "crypto-Jews," or hidden Jews, of northern New Mexico and southern Colorado. These are Spanish Jews who converted to Catholicism in 1492 under pressure from King Ferdinand and Queen Isabelle but continued to practice their old faith in secrecy.

A performance of Jewish cantorial music will follow a Saturday night banquet at the Plaza Hotel.

The conference is sponsored by the School of Liberal and Fine Arts at New Mexico Highlands University, New Mexico Highlands University Foundation and the Las Vegas Chamber of Commerce.
Shown above (l to r) are Dorothy Shipman, Walter Kahn, Robert Nordhaus, Rachel Wortman and Nelly Wells Hernandez, who participated in the panel discussion of "Jewish Life in Las Vegas and Northeast New Mexico in the early and Mid Twentieth Century", which was one of the highlights of our Annual Conference held in Las Vegas, NM in October. For details of the conference, see P.4

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Jan. 27-28  Tucson Inquisition/Crypto Jews Conference. Phone Prof. Abe Chanin - (602)621-5774
Feb. 3       Genealogy Seminar - "How to Find Your Jewish Roots" Temple Albert, Albuquerque
April
April 14     Annual Membership Meeting - Exact date and place to be announced.
(TENTATIVE)  Panel Discussion - Jewish Life in Albuquerque in the early 20th Century
(TENTATIVE)  3rd International Seminar On Jewish Genealogy Salt Lake City, Utah.
July 7-11    October
            Fourth Annual NMJHS Conference, Taos, NM
Certificate No. 37

Certificate Made this 28th Day of May, 1992.

Efforts Rendered in Establishing and Preserving this Lineage as a Part of the History of Colorado,
and the Settlement and Formation of What is Now the State of Colorado, and for the Interest and
Custody is Hereby Expressed to this First Family for the Valuable Contribution It Has Made

and is hereby issued this Certificate.

Has Satisfactorily Proven this Family Genealogy,

is a direct descendant of the above first settler,


dowering

United States of America, in the year 1859,

That is now known as Sangre de CR., County, State of Colorado,

was born in or settled in the area of western North America

This is to certify that

First Family of Colorado
July 15, 1992

Dorothy Bernheim Shipman
1407 Greensboro Street
Boise, Idaho 83706

Dear Certificate Recipient:

It gives me great pleasure to congratulate you as you receive your Family Certificate from the Colorado Council Genealogical Societies.

You should be proud of your heritage. I am very interested in Colorado history and, as Governor, I am very interested in Colorado families. I feel strongly that their records should be preserved for the benefit of future Coloradans.

Again, I offer my congratulations to you on this very special occasion. May your family always remain in Colorado.

Sincerely,

Roy Romer
Governor
1. **PLACE OF BIRTH**
   - County of: Pueblo
   - Town of: 
   - City of: 1119 Grand
   - Registration District No.: 192
   - St.: 
   - Ward: 

2. **FULL NAME OF CHILD:** Dorothy Bernheim

3. Sex: Female

4. Twin, triplet, or other: 

5. Number, in order of birth: 1st

6. Prematurity: 

7. Legitimate?: Yes

8. Date of birth: Dec. 21, 1918 (Month, Day, Year)

9. **FATHER**
   - Full name: Isidor Solomon Bernheim

   (If non-resident, give place and State.)

11. Color or race: White

12. Age at last birthday: 27 (years)

13. Birthplace (city or place): Pueblo
   (State or country)

14. Occupation: Merchant

15. **MOTHER**
   - Full name: Edith Welline Weil

   (If non-resident, give place and State.)

17. Color or race: White

18. Age at last birthday: 24 (years)

19. Birthplace (city or place): Pueblo
   (State or country)

20. Occupation: Housewife

21. Date (month and year) last engaged in this work: 

22. Total time (years) spent in this work: 

23. Trade, profession, or particular kind of work done: 
   - Housekeeper
   - Typist, nurse, clerk, etc.

24. Industry or business in which work was done: 
   - Lawyer's office, silk mill, etc.

25. Date (month and year) last engaged in this work: 

26. Total time (years) spent in this work: 

27. Number of children of this mother: 1
   (At time of this birth and including this child) 
   - Born alive and now living: 1
   - Born alive but now dead: 0
   - Stillborn: 0

28. If stillborn, period of gestation: 7 months

29. Cause of stillbirth: Before labor

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**CERTIFICATE OF ATTENDING PHYSICIAN OR MIDWIFE**

I hereby certify that I attended the birth of this child and that it occurred on Dec. 21, 1918 at 5:30 A.M.

I hereby certify that I attended the birth of this child, who was born at M., on the date above stated.

(Signed) W. T. H. Baker M. D.

Or:

(Signed) W. E. Buck Midwife

Address: Pueblo, Colo.

Filed: Feb. 2, 1919

Registrar:

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**THIS CERTIFIES**

DOROTHY BERNHEIM

Subscribed and sworn to before me this 31st day of May, A. D. 1944

Notary Public.